



Ripples on the Pond

Newsletter of the Two Ponds Preservation Foundation

March 2005

TWO PONDS WEB SITE

To provide the public with quality access to refuge information online, a Two Ponds Web site was created and has been maintained by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. To consistently provide improved access to the public, Bev Taylor has graciously donated her time and services over the past few months toward this cause. As a result, the Web site now looks better than ever, including a more interactive menu, additional photos, updated information and more user-friendly access to specific Refuge topics. *Thank you, Bev for all your help!* Please visit us at: <http://twoponds.gov>

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION GRANT APPROVED FOR TWO PONDS

Last year, the Service submitted a grant proposal to Region 6 and the Volunteer and Community Partnership Act Grant Committees to fund an environmental education project that would benefit Two Ponds and the schools participating in programs at the Refuge. National wildlife refuges across the country competed for the limited funding available; **in the end, only 14 environmental education projects were funded, including Two Ponds!** We are extremely grateful for the selection!

Specifically, this project involves the production of a children's EE chest that will contain the necessary items for educators and group leaders in the Denver metro area to facilitate a more interactive and applicable unit on environmental education in the classroom. In addition, when utilized as an anticipatory set before a field trip, this chest will help prepare children to become more educated and informed about the value of national wildlife refuges and the refuge system.

The approval of this project would not have been possible without the help from the Two Ponds Preservation Foundation. An enormous amount of credit and gratitude goes to all the members of the Foundation, for collectively serving as a well-established partner to Two Ponds and for demonstrating their firm commitment to donating their time and money to match the service share!



CANAL BRIDGES (Fact or Fiction)

Several factors have caused the installation cost of the foot bridges over the Croke and Farmers Highline Canals to escalate well beyond the available resources. As a result, we are considering alternatives and have identified a possible solution in the form of retired railroad cars. A company takes railcars of various types and recycles them as bridges. Although this company provides mostly automotive bridges, their product may be useful for our purposes, and these bridges may be in our price range.

We're certain that the foot bridges will become fact, whether that's sooner or later remains to be seen. We will continue to look for and work toward solutions that will make the bridges a reality.

Calendar of Events

APRIL 7

**TWO PONDS PRESERVATION
FOUNDATION ANNUAL MEETING**
Standley Lake Library

6:30 pm Reception and short business meeting
7:00 pm Presentation by Pat Craig of the
Rocky Mountain Wildlife Conservation Center

MAY 7

ARVADA TAKE PRIDE DAY

Spring cleanup at the Refuge and City Parks
Call Seth Beres to participate.
303.289.0867

MAY 1

DAWN CHORUS 6 am - 8 am
Call Seth Beres to make reservations.
303.289.0867

JUNE 4

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY

TWO PONDS PRESERVATION FOUNDATION

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NEW BIRD CHECKLIST AVAILABLE

The Two Ponds bird checklist has been an excellent resource for birdwatchers, school groups, and the local public visiting the Refuge by providing them a detailed list of resident and migrant species observed throughout each season. Recently, Dave Rhoades generously volunteered to update the checklist with current data and Refuge information. Due to his efforts, we now have a brand new 2005 bird checklist available to the public at the kiosk entrances of the Refuge. I would like to offer a special thanks to Dave for his ongoing commitment to Two Ponds and for always making certain we know what birds allow us to share their habitat.

SPRING PROGRAMS

Mike Brogan has committed the Colorado Wildlife Federation (CWF) to another year of partnership with the Two Ponds NWR in order to provide greater educational opportunities and programs for students throughout the Denver Metro area in 2005. This is great news for the Refuge and for thousands of future naturalists we will provide programs for throughout the year. We are already scheduling programs for the spring and summer, and look forward to working with Mike and CWF again. Please contact Seth Beres at (303) 289-0867 for more information or for reserving a program.

TRAIL'S DAY

This year's "Arvada Celebrates its Trails" event has again joined forces with Two Ponds National Wildlife Refuge and Majestic View Nature Center and Community Park in an expanded event to be held on Saturday June 4, 2005. The activities will begin at 9:00 A.M. with a hosted 22-mile bicycle ride sponsored by the Denver Bicycle Touring Club. Interested participants should meet in the Majestic View Nature Center parking lot at 8:45 A.M.

The main festivities will kick off at 10:00 A.M. and run until 1:00 P.M. at Majestic View Nature Center and Community Park, 7030 Garrison Street, and the Two Ponds National NWR, 80th Avenue and Club Crest Drive. There will be a guided walk between Two Ponds NWR and Majestic View Nature Center. Shuttle service will also be provided between the two facilities.

Activities at Two Ponds NWR will include a variety of environmental educational displays and activities

for kids and adults, self-guided nature walks on the trail system, wildlife contraband, wildlife photography, and informational booths from several local organizations. Activities at the Majestic View Nature Center will include trail walks, bird walks, kids environmental activities, Arvada Trail information, water conservation ideas and landscape materials, nature center school and public program brochures and a Mad Science nature booth. Arvada Animal Management will also be present with information on pet regulations specific to Arvada's Trails, and the West Arvada Off-Leash Dog Park group will be there to provide information on this new park.

(CONTINUED)



Visit the Two Ponds Web site at
<http://twoponds.gov>

THE REFUGE MANAGER'S PERSPECTIVE

by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Refuge Manager, Vic Elam



Recently I had the opportunity to hike a few miles of the Appalachian Trail in Maryland. There was a fresh coating of snow on the ground, which revealed the tracks of recent passers by. Deer, bobcat and coyote had used portions of the trail and some of my fellow man used the trail for short distances near trailheads. During my five hour jaunt I had some valuable time to reflect on many things, and one thought that prevailed was

how lucky I was to have the opportunity to visit wild places such as this, and walk as one among the wild creatures.

A few days later I was at Two Ponds, also after a recent snow, and I again took notice of the tracks left behind by raccoons, rabbits and squirrels as I watched a great blue heron perched on a branch next to the waters edge. Again I thought, how lucky I am to have the opportunity to share this place with the creatures that make it their home. No, it wasn't on the grandiose scale that I witnessed on the Appalachian Trail, and I wasn't likely to hike for hours without seeing another person, but it was special in its own way.

I recently had the opportunity to visit with Linda Oliphant, one of the founding members of the Two Ponds Preservation Foundation, who now resides in southern Texas near the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge, a 70,504-acre coastal refuge. Linda gleamed with enthusiasm about the wonders she finds there, and shared the story about one of the success stories involving endangered species, that of the whooping crane, which winters in the tidal estuaries of the Aransas NWR. Thanks to a lot of hard work by dedicated U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service employees, the whooper has bounced back from a low of 15 in 1941 to well over two hundred, a stable growing population today.

I think that each refuge has its own attributes. Although Two Ponds NWR won't likely harbor critically endangered species, it may foster a sense of wonder in a young student's eye, or help develop a sense of appreciation for wild places for a future biologist, politician, teacher or even a Two Ponds Preservation Foundation board member. And for those of us caught up in the hustle and bustle of life in the city, maybe a walk amongst the creatures is the antidote for the stresses of our daily lives.

TRAIL'S DAY (CONTINUED)

Two volkssporting groups are also planning to be on hand again this year. The Rocky Mountain Wanderers and the Colorado High Country Hikers will have information on their trail walking and hiking activities.

This year's 4th annual photo contest will provide an opportunity for residents to submit photos of any scene or place in Arvada that may be chosen to be a part of a set of postcards to be produced and distributed at all City of Arvada activities. There will be two age groups this year. The Children's age group will be 12 and under, and the Adult's group will be 13 and older. Please, only one photo per group per family. The photos will be displayed and cash prizes will be awarded to the finalists chosen at this year's Trails Event. Photos should be submitted to:

Arvada Postcard Photo Contest
Parks, Golf and Hospitality
8101 Ralston Road
Arvada, CO 80002

National Trails Day will be a great opportunity for you to see and learn about two great nature facilities available here in Arvada, as well as discover and enjoy Arvada's world class trails and parks system. So, mark your calendars, get those bicycles and walking shoes ready, and plan on spending a few hours with us on Saturday, June 4, 2005.

For further information contact Dave Olson @ (303)423-9491 or Janice Miller @ (303) 423-3924, or check out the following Web site:
<http://www.arvadafestivals.com>

I WOULD LOVE TO JOIN THE TWO PONDS PRESERVATION FOUNDATION!

The Foundation is a totally volunteer organization and 100 percent of your donation is used for the Two Ponds National Wildlife Refuge. The Foundation receives and administers gifts for environmental education, preservation of wetlands and the development of the Two Ponds National Wildlife Refuge.



Please make checks payable to Two Ponds Preservation Foundation. Your gift is tax deductible.
() \$25 Beaver () \$50 Red Fox () \$100 Black-Crowned Night-Heron - engraved brick
() \$500 Swainson's Hawk - engraved flagstone slab () \$1,000 Golden Eagle - engraved park bench

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Mail your tax deductible contribution to:

Two Ponds Preservation Foundation, P.O. Box 740748, Arvada, CO 80006-0748.

SPRING HOURS AT THE REFUGE

East side open May 3 - October 31, please call Seth Beres at 303.289.0867 • West side open seven days a week from dawn to dusk.

INTERNATIONAL DAWN CHORUS

**TWO PONDS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
SUNDAY • MAY 1, 2005 • 6AM - 8AM**

Enjoy a Colorado sunrise on the Refuge and listen to the chorus of song birds as part of International Dawn Chorus Day. Following 20 minutes of listening to and reflecting on the sounds of nature, join USFW Service volunteer ornithologist Dave Rhoades for a tour of the Refuge. After the walk, gather at a local restaurant (optional at own expense) for a discussion on what you experienced during the morning. Please call to register by April 30th.

Contact Seth Beres at (303) 289-0867



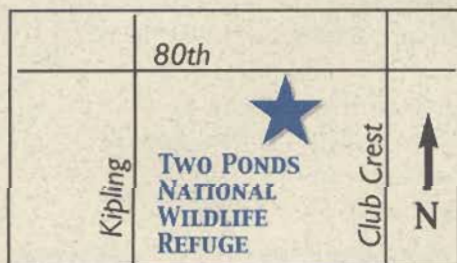
Do you have an appreciation of nature? Would you like to communicate it to others? Become a volunteer at Two Ponds National Wildlife Refuge and provide visitors with a memorable experience while enjoying YOUR Refuge. Contact Jeannine Kimble @ (303) 289-0471 for more information.



TWO PONDS PRESERVATION FOUNDATION

P.O. Box 740748
Arvada, Colorado
80006-0748

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